

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-01 INR-05
DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00
INRE-00 EURE-00 /040 W
-----088789 071646Z /43

O 071617Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1440

S E C R E T ATHENS 6271

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US

SUBJ: U.S.- GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS

REF: STATE 156861

1. IT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL TO EXPECT THAT GREECE WOULD CONTINUE TO BARGAIN WITH US, EACH STEP OF THE WAY THROUGH THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS UNTIL THE DCA IS PRESENTED TO LEGISLATURES. IN THAT VERY GENERAL SENSE, THE REPORT CITED IN REFTEL APPEARS VALID. THE "POLITICAL" BENEFIT WHICH CHRYSOPATHIS SAID THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SEEKS WOULD IN OUR VIEW PROBABLY BE AIMED AT GETTING THE BEST DEAL POSSIBLE SO AS TO BOLSTER ITS POSITION IN PARLIAMENT WHEN DCA COMES UP FOR RATIFICATION, AND NOT SIMPLY TO SQUEEZE ADDITIONAL QUID FROM THE USG.

2. THE SPECIFIC "BENEFITS" GREECE MIGHT SEEK BETWEEN INITIALING AND SIGNATURE ARE NOT KNOWN TO US. HOWEVER, TWO MONTHS AGO THE GOG EXPRESSED ITS DESIRE FOR (A) SOME ARRANGEMENT TO ALLOW THE FMS CREDIT PORTION OF THE \$700 MILLION TO BE PROVIDED AT LEAST IN PART AS SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, AND (B) A LETTER INDICATING THE AVAILABILITY OF UP TO ABOUT \$3000 MILLION IN EXIM CREDITS ADDITIONAL TO THE DCA'S FIRST FOUR YEARS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE

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(SEE ATHENS 4223-EXDIS). ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT THE GOG MIGHT REITERATE ITS REQUEST--MADE DURING PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE CLIFFORD'S FEBRUARY VISIT - FOR A RENEWAL OF THE KISSINGER-BITSIOS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS DURING APRIL, 1976, AND FOR A STRENGTHENING OF THE KISSINGER LETTER'S PROVISION REGARDING PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS IN THE AEGEAN AND IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. WE WOULD GUESS IT IS THIS KIND OF "POLITICAL BENEFIT" CHRYSOS-

PATHIS MAY HAVE HAD IN MIND.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS06271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0716
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770785/aaaacvnu.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d75c3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 156861
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1944289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.- GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d75c3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009